

B. Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

3. (Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1[or 2], in which the thermoplastic material displays a marked physical relaxation behaviour at ambient temperature.
4. (Amended) Floor covering according to claim 1,[2 or 3,] in which polyvinyl formals, polyvinyl butyrals, polyvinyl ethers, polyisobutenes, copolymers such as terpolymers of acrylonitrile, butadiene and styrene (ABS), copolymers of vinyl chloride and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, copolymers of vinyl acetate and vinyl laurate or blends of these polymers, including with the addition of typical polymer plasticisers, are used as the thermoplastic material.
5. (Amended) Floor covering according to [one of the preceeding claims] claim 1, in which polymers or copolymers with fillers, preferably light organic substances, are provided as the thermoplastic material.
6. (Amended) Floor covering according to [one of the preceeding claims] claim 1, in which a thermoplastic material with adhesive properties is used.
7. (Amended) Floor covering according to [one of the preceeding claims] claim 1, in which the panels are thicker than the layer consisting of thermoplastic material.
8. (Amended) Floor covering according to [one of the preceeding claims] claim 1, which can be produced by spreading or rolling the thermoplastic material in the free-flowing state on to the bottom of the floor panels.
9. (Amended) Process for the production of a floor covering according to [one of the preceeding claims] claim 1, in which thermoplastic material is heated and applied in the free-flowing state on to the bottom of floor panels by spreading or roller application without the inclusion of air.

WC 01/09461

CT/EP99/08510

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 JAN 2002

10

Claims (Amended claims)

1. Floor covering with rigid laminate or parquet panels consisting of wood or timber-based materials with a layer which is firmly bonded to the bottom of the panels,

characterised in that

the layer consists of thermoplastic material, and in which the thermoplastic material is applied to the bottom of the panels without the inclusion of air.
2. to 6. as originally filed.
7. Floor covering according to one of the preceeding claims, in which the panels are thicker than the layer consisting of thermoplastic material.
8. Floor covering according to one of the preceeding claims, which can be produced by spreading or rolling the thermoplastic material in the free-flowing state on to the bottom of the floor panels.
9. Process for the production of a floor covering according to one of the preceeding claims, in which thermoplastic material is heated and applied in the free-flowing state on to the bottom of floor panels by spreading or roller application without the inclusion of air.